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SECOND PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION UGANDA-RWANDA

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in pursuance of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 891 (1993) of 20 December 1993, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR) for a period of six months from 22 December 1993 to 21 June 1994. The present report covers the period since my last report to the Security Council on UNOMUR of 15 December 1993 (S/26878).

2. UNOMUR was established with the adoption of resolution 846 (1993) by the Security Council on 22 June 1993. The mission was mandated to deploy on the Ugandan side of the border with Rwanda in order to verify that no military assistance reached Rwanda, focusing primarily in that regard on transit or transport, by roads or tracks which could accommodate vehicles, of lethal weapons and ammunition across the border, as well as any other material that could be of military use.

II. DEPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITIES

3. As of 3 June 1994, UNOMUR consisted of 81 military observers from the following countries: Bangladesh (20), Botswana (9), Brazil (13), Hungary (4), Netherlands (10), Senegal (10) Slovakia (5) and Zimbabwe (10). In addition, the mission included 11 international civilian and 7 locally recruited staff performing a variety of substantive and administrative support tasks.

4. The drastic change in the overall situation in Rwanda, sparked by the deaths of the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi in a suspicious plane crash in Kigali on 6 April, and resulting in the resumption of hostilities in that country, affected not only the operations of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), but also UNOMUR's monitoring operations on Uganda's border with Rwanda. Prior to the resumption of hostilities in Rwanda, UNOMUR had restricted its monitoring activities in Uganda along the area of the border with Rwanda which was controlled by the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF). As pointed out in my report of 15 December (S/26878), UNOMUR's deployment and

operational activities mainly covered two major and three secondary crossing sites stretching from Sabinio volcano in the west to Lubirizi in the east on the Ugandan side of the border (see attached map).

5. Following the resumption of the civil war in Rwanda, RPF was able to gain control of the entire border with Uganda. It therefore became evident that in order for UNOMUR to fulfil its mandate, the mission would be required to extend its observation and monitoring activities along the whole border, up to Mirama Hills on the eastern part of the Ugandan side of the border, a distance of some 170 kilometres from Sabinio volcano to the West. Moreover, it was not possible for UNOMUR to investigate in a credible manner the increasing number of allegations being received that troops and support equipment were crossing the Ugandan border into Rwanda without monitoring the entire border. While UNOMUR's movements to the areas in the north-east and west beyond the mission's original area of operation were not restricted, attempts were made to restrict UNOMUR patrols eastward in the Mirama Hills area. After discussions between the UNOMUR Acting Chief Military Observer and the Ugandan military authorities at Kampala on 2 May, UNOMUR received clearance to monitor this area by both ground and air patrols. Accordingly, with effect from 14 May 1994, UNOMUR has been able to monitor the entire border between Uganda and Rwanda.

6. UNOMUR carries out its tasks essentially through patrolling, monitoring and surveillance of the whole stretch of the operational area, involving both mobile and fixed observations as well as on-site investigations of suspected cross-border traffic. Since the resumption of the fighting in Rwanda, UNOMUR's surveillance activities have been especially vigorous and have enabled it to investigate to allegations of arms flows into Rwanda through its border with Uganda.

7. The recent extension of UNOMUR's monitoring activities to the whole border has necessitated the readjustment of tasks and the reassignment of military observers in the operational area. Consequently, the headquarters staff at Kabale has been reduced from 14 to 9 currently to permit the creation of additional monitoring teams, with the remaining headquarters personnel also participating, as appropriate, in patrolling and other monitoring assignments. To help meet the increased operational requirements, UNOMUR currently maintains seven observation posts and checkpoints manned on a 24-hour basis, as opposed to two previously.

8. In carrying out its monitoring mandate, UNOMUR is currently performing a number of specific tasks, including, inter alia:

(a) Fixed 24-hour manned observation through the two main crossing sites at Katuna and Cyanika and the secondary crossing points at Bigaga, Lubirizi, Kafunzo, Kashekye and Mirama Hills;

(b) Random day and night mobile patrols to cover routes or tracks which require surveillance;

(c) Random day and night foot patrols covering areas which also require surveillance but are inaccessible by mobile/vehicle patrols;

(d) Random aerial day patrols involving the airlift by helicopters of military observers into areas of high elevation for a clearer view and observation of routes leading to the border;

(e) Random aerial day surveillance by helicopter of the border areas and routes. Such surveillance is often conducted by mission commanders and staff to monitor movements along the border and routes leading to the border.

9. The arrival in the mission area of three helicopters in early April has strengthened UNOMUR's overall operational capacity. However, ground features and weather conditions do not permit safe operations of civilian-contracted helicopters at night. Therefore, the helicopters are currently used primarily for daytime aerial surveillance, patrolling and reconnaissance. They are also used for emergency medical evacuation purposes and for rapid deployment of military observers to selected remote and difficult-to-reach observation posts to monitor suspected crossing sites by day or night.

10. I am glad to report that, in general, UNOMUR's activities in pursuance of its mandate have been effective. In my last report to the Council (S/26878), I noted that any clandestine cross-border traffic had decreased appreciably and that, at that time, movement was restricted and only along well-used routes across the border. I furthermore reported that there was no evidence of any significant traffic in armaments. Despite the resumption of hostilities in Rwanda, the situation of cross-border traffic from Uganda into Rwanda does not appear to have changed during the reporting period, and no movement of armaments or armed personnel has been detected by UNOMUR.

III. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

11. As indicated in my report on the financing of UNAMIR (A/48/837), the administrative costs related to the military observers and civilian personnel of UNOMUR, with effect from 22 December 1993, are included in the cost estimates for the maintenance of UNAMIR. The General Assembly, by its resolution 48/248 of 5 April 1994, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments at a monthly rate not to exceed $9,082,600 gross per month for the period from 5 April to 31 October 1994, for the maintenance of both operations. Should the Council decide to continue the mandate of UNOMUR as recommended in paragraph 14 below, the resources required for its maintenance would be obtained from the level authorized by the Assembly in its resolution 48/248.

IV. OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

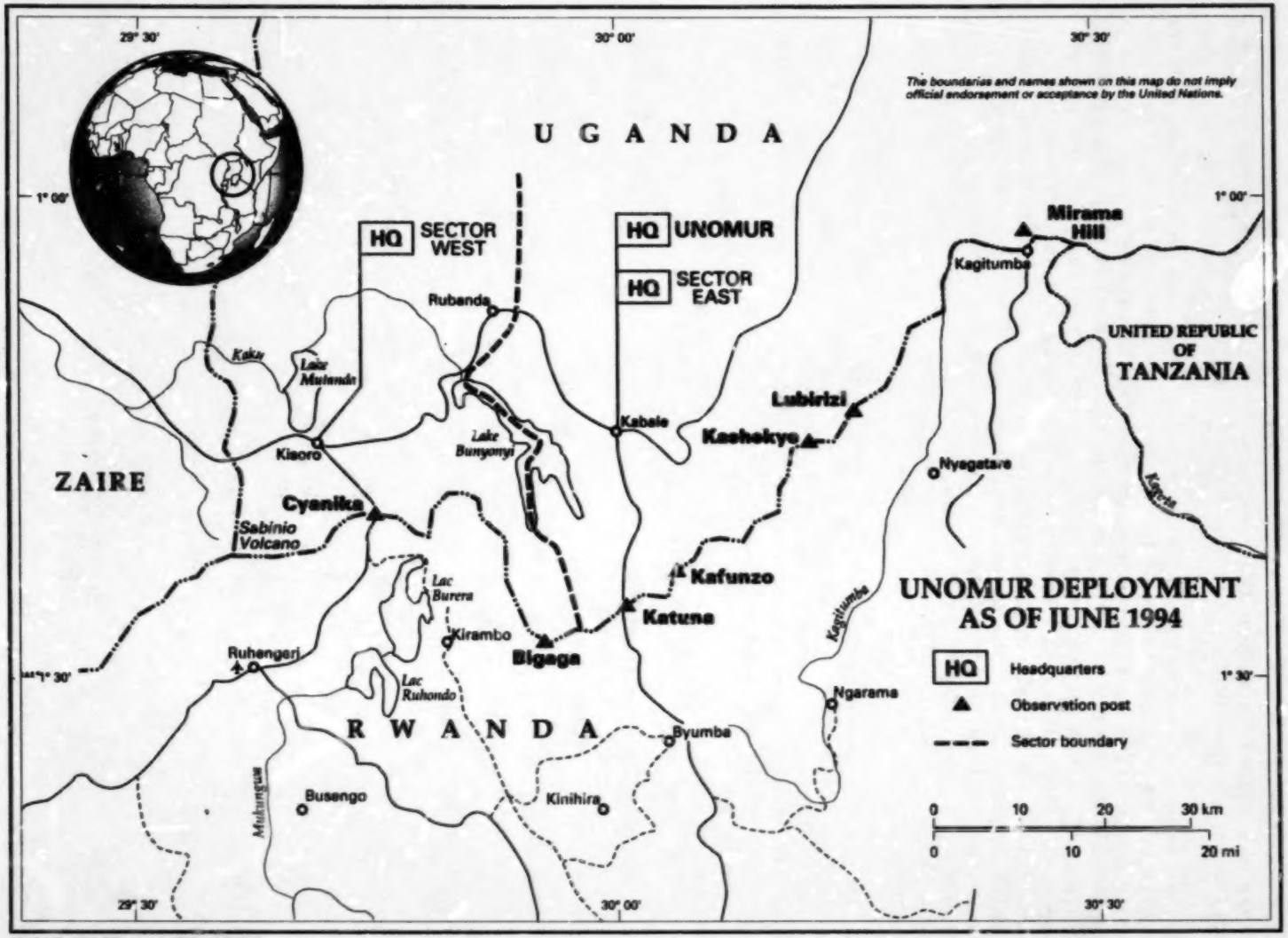
12. It is now nearly a year since the Security Council decided to establish UNOMUR and almost 10 months since the mission was fully deployed in its operational area. UNOMUR was intended to create an atmosphere conducive to a negotiated settlement of the Rwandese conflict and to underscore the importance that the international community attaches to the maintenance of peace and security in the region. This observer mission has continued to be a factor of stability in the area and has been particularly critical in recent months, as

UNAMIR has sought to defuse tensions resulting from the resumption of hostilities in Rwanda.

13. As a result of the dramatically changed situation in Rwanda, both the priorities and the requirements of the international community have evolved. It should be recalled in this connection that the Security Council, by its resolution 918 (1994) of 17 May 1994, decided to expand the strength of UNAMIR to 5,500 all ranks to enable it to contribute to the security and protection of persons at risk in Rwanda and to provide security and support for the distribution of relief supplies and humanitarian relief operations. Under resolution 918 (1994), the Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, also decided to place an embargo on the delivery of arms, ammunition and related material to Rwanda. In addition, the Council established a Committee to coordinate with Member States on the action taken by them to implement the embargo.

14. Under these circumstances, there appears to be little rationale for monitoring one of Rwanda's borders and not the others. At the same time, however, the issue of arms flows is one of the major areas of concern in the cease-fire talks, which are being held under the auspices of UNAMIR. As UNOMUR's activities allow UNAMIR to address, at least to some degree, the issue of outside interference in the Rwandese civil war, I believe that UNOMUR should continue its monitoring activities until an effective cease-fire has been established. I therefore recommend that UNOMUR's mandate be renewed for a period of three months. During this period, the number of military observers would be reduced by phases, adjusting to operational requirements. UNOMUR would be closed down by 21 September. I would report on the completion of this process to the Security Council.

15. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the Government of Uganda for the cooperation and assistance it has extended to UNOMUR. I also wish to pay tribute to both the military and the civilian personnel of UNOMUR for the professionalism and dedication with which they have carried out their tasks.



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